



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Legislative Republicans Deliver Another Strong Budget for the 70th Assembly District

On Tuesday, June 29th, the State Assembly took up and passed the Legislature's 2021-2023 State Budget. The State Senate subsequently followed suit, and enactment of the state's new financial plan now rests with Governor Evers, who still possesses one of the most powerful veto pens in the nation. I was happy to support yet another responsible financial plan put together by Legislative Republicans and the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance for a variety of reasons, primarily because I was again able to work closely with my colleagues and the Joint Committee on Finance to craft another budget that delivers for residents of the 70th Assembly District. A number of priority items are addressed in the Legislature's budget, ranging from investments in local roads aids and agricultural producers, to investments in our local healthcare providers to help keep care accessible and offset the disproportionate share of public payee patients that seek out services, to approval of the highest funding levels ever for K-12 education, even more than the already historic funding levels prior to the pandemic, while at the same time not raising taxes *and* delivering a once in a generation style tax cut to allow residents throughout the state to keep more of their own hard-earned money.

However, no discussion of this session's state budget should begin without first pointing out where we started earlier this year. In February, Governor Evers proposed a biennial budget that would raise taxes on Wisconsinites by over \$1 billion and overall spending by over 10%. In any competent organization, public or private, the governor's plan would have been met with considerable ire by any financial professional worth their salt, and that doesn't even address the inclusion of a number of radical policy proposals he included that would infringe on the Second Amendment rights of residents, expand welfare, place arbitrary restrictions on local law enforcement professionals, and more. As was evident and stated over and over throughout the budget writing process by Republican members of the Joint Committee on Finance, the governor again presented an unserious budget proposal built on sand. As I've previously stated, it was disappointing, but unfortunately not surprising based on recent history.

It's also important to point out that despite repeated pleas for the governor to either meet and discuss how he planned to spend the roughly \$3 billion in discretionary federal relief funding the state was set to receive, or present a plan on how he planned to spend this enormous amount of discretionary funds, the governor refused, and the Legislature's finance committee was forced to put together a two-year spending plan not knowing how the governor planned to spend the money. Can you think of any other organization where that type of scenario would be accepted by organizational leaders, a board of directors, or organizational owners? I can't either, but that's part in parcel of government for you with a radically out of touch executive at the helm and partisan activists in the mainstream media running cover for the governor and his administration.

On June 8th, the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau [released](#) revised general fund tax collections for 2020-21 and the two years of the 2021-23 biennium showing an "unprecedented" increase of \$4.4



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billion above previous estimates based on “vastly improved economic forecasts for the remainder of this year and the next two years.” In turn, prior to wrapping up the Legislature’s budget, Republicans on the Joint Committee on Finance included a tax cut of over \$3.4 billion for Wisconsinites and again showed a fundamental and stark difference from Governor Evers and Democrats in the Legislature. We believe that the people of Wisconsin know how to spend their money much, much better than government and bureaucrats in Madison, and that’s reflected throughout the Legislature’s budget. We’ve proved for now about a decade that responsible budgeting allows the state to invest in fundamental priorities for Wisconsin residents, save for the future, and importantly, return more money where it belongs - to the hard-working taxpayers in the 70th Assembly District and throughout the state.

Nancy VanderMeer represents the 70th Wisconsin State Assembly District, which includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties and serves as the Chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Vice-Chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.